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IDENTIFIERS	*Manitoba (Brandon)

ABSTRACT

In many ways the 1977-78 third year of operation of the Rural Community Resource Centre (Brandon, Manitoba) closely reflected the stresses and dynamics of the society in which it exists. Fiscal uncertainty resulted in critical analysis of the objectives and operations of the Centre and increased accountability for government granted funds. The Northern Advisory Committee was formed to focus specifically on regional issues. The Centre was involved in some 45 projects, 28 of which were initiated during the past year, in the areas of information and research, community and organizational consultation, and leadership education. The Rural Archives, housed at Brandon University, continued to collect documents tracing the activity, growth, and development of Manitoba communities, and the archives staff conducted local history workshops for over 200 Manitoba residents and provided reference, referral, public relations, and consultation services. In addition to a summary of activities, the report includes a message from the Board Chairperson, a listing of members of the Board of Directors, the financial report, and a collage of newspaper clippings highlighting the year's work. (NEC)

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YEAR THREE

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE

RURAL COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTRE

PREPARED FOR THE

THIRD ANNUAL MEETING

DECEMBER 2, 1978

BRANDON UNIVERSITY

BRANDON, MANITOBA

RC 011851

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
EDUCATION & WELFARE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF
EDUCATION

Community Resource
Centre

YEAR THREE

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE

RURAL COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTRE

OCTOBER 1, 1977 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 1978

PREPARED BY THE STAFF OF THE CENTRE FOR THE

THIRD ANNUAL MEETING

DECEMBER 2, 1978

BRANDON UNIVERSITY

BRANDON, MANITOBA

Table of Contents

- A Message from the Chairperson of the Board
- Members of the Board of Directors 1977-78
- The Resource Centre at the Crossroads
- Summary of Activities
- Report of Activities: Year Three
- The Rural Archives
- Financial Report
- Newspaper Clippings

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD

This is the Third Annual Report of the Community Resource Centre for the period October 1, 1977 to September 30, 1978. A great many different projects have been started, as well as continuing with others from the previous year. To me it was another successful year. With restraint taking place in many areas, we had a few financial worries for a while but things improved and we were able to carry on.

Under the directorship of Larry Clark, with the assistance of Roberta Miller, who left in June, and Sally Cunningham, who is in charge of Archives, many worthwhile projects have been accomplished. We were sorry to have Roberta leave us but it has been a great pleasure to welcome Sharon Campbell as a Resource Assistant and to have Orval Henderson join our staff as Staff and Organization Development Consultant.

I would like to thank all the members of the Board of Directors for their hard work. They have had to attend many meetings to make this year a successful one.

Thanks must also go to the Federal and Provincial Governments, Brandon University, and the Manitoba Pool Elevators for providing financial assistance. A thank you goes to Dr. Perkins, to his representatives on the Board, and to staff members who have assisted us in our projects. From the Board of Directors goes thanks to Larry and his hard working staff for their work and encouragement during this past year.

To those who read this report, I hope you will agree it has been another year of accomplishment. We hope you will share this report with others so that more people may know of the work of the Centre, since its main purpose is to meet the needs of rural communities in Manitoba.

Marion Fulton
Chairperson, Board of Directors

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTRE

1977-78

Mrs. Marion Fulton, Chairperson
Birtle, Manitoba

Mr. Don Adams Brandon, Manitoba	Mr. Fred Foss Winnipeg, Manitoba	Mr. Bert Hall Manitou, Manitoba
Mr. Julian Gorchynski Brandon, Manitoba	Mrs. Myrtle Lenton Miami, Manitoba	Mr. Manson Moir Tilston, Manitoba
Mrs. Maud Lelond Miniota, Manitoba	Mr. Barry Hood Carberry, Manitoba	Mr. Syd Lye Oakville, Manitoba
Mr. Bill Strath Souris, Manitoba	Mr. Walter Hlady Winnipeg, Manitoba	Mr. Bill Burgess Brandon, Manitoba
Mr. Morris Deveson Winnipeg, Manitoba	Mrs. Isabella Proven Basswood, Manitoba	Mr. Walter Chomyn Thompson, Manitoba

CORE STAFF

Larry Clark, Director

Roberta Miller Administrative Assistant (to June 30, 1978)	Orval R. Henderson Staff & Organization Development Consultant	Sally Cunningham Archives/Local Histories Co-ordinator

PROJECT STAFF

Sharon Grill	Judy Byran	Ken Bessant
Laurel Strain	Colleen Senenko	Charmaine Boyce
Sharon Campbell	Jaye Castleden	Jay McPhail
Ron McBryde	Mary Hall	Don Castleden

PROJECT ADVISORS

Dr. E. Monu	Dr. R. Rounds	Dr. J. Everitt
Dr. E. J. Tyler	Mr. B. McFarlane	Dr. L. Clark
Mr. T. Mitchell	Mr. T. Robertson	Dr. A. Blue

THE RESOURCE CENTRE AT THE CROSSROADS

In many ways, Year Three in the life of the Rural Community Resource Centre closely reflected the stresses and dynamics of the society in which it exists. Fiscal uncertainty around the continuing availability of funds caused the Board of Directors to critically explore several alternate organization models and even to contemplate ultimate closure of the Centre. What has become a household word to Canadians, "restraint", became an operating necessity midway through the fiscal year.

However, the focus and direction toward which the Centre has evolved, that of assisting rural and northern groups, communities and organizations to explore and develop more effective organizations, seems to have captured an oft - expressed need in todays society.

The objectives and function of the Centre has evolved from the initial concept of an institute for interdisciplinary academic research on small rural and remote northern communities (as proposed by Brandon University to the provincial government in 1970) through the 1974 focus on an "action-oriented community development" function to the 1975 start up concept of the Centre as integrating applied research on the small community, rural leadership training and community consultation functions. This latter concept saw the Community Resource Centre as an independent body (community based Board of Directors with independent funding) affiliated with Brandon University with the capacity to take an analytical but essentially non partisan position on critical issues in rural and remote northern life.

The objectives described by the community based Board in 1975, portrayed the Centre as providing a "resource" to which rural and remote northern communities could turn for assistance in analysing their problems and determining the courses of action best suited to their needs. More specifically the Centre was:

- to research problems and opportunities of rural communities in response to concerns identified by rural people.
- to serve as a resource to current government programs and to communities in providing expertise on how to motivate people to obtain community action.

- to develop and maintain a data bank on rural communities including demographic, economic and institutional resources available to rural residents and to provide this information in a form that could be readily used by local groups.
- to seek out, identify and interpret rural values and unique qualities of rural living.
- to work on a continuing basis with other institutions interested in the development of rural communities, in keeping with the expressed desires of the people.

Continuing critical analysis of the objectives and operations of the Centre has been forced by fiscal restraint policies and the demands for increased accountability for funds granted by governments and organizations. This analysis showed that increased Centre viability could be developed by a subtle shift in emphasis to working more in projects and contracts with more clearly defined and tangible objectives and where if possible, the receipient organization or agency contributed financially for the services rendered by the Centre. (This emphasis has shifted from the previous high concentration on promoting the Centre as being primarily available as an informal community resource.) That a need exists for both functions has been demonstrated in the Centre's third year of operation!

A further reflection of the need for more specific programming to meet clearly identified goals was the basis for forming the *Northern Advisory Committee*. Under the constitution of the Centre, advisory groups may be formed to focus specifically on regional or special interest issues. In August, 1978 a Provisional Northern Advisory Committee to the Community Resource Centre was formed.

The Provisional Committee believes the need for Resource Centre involvement becomes increasingly apparent as the effect of resource cutbacks from governments occur. It hopes to focus the Resource Centre's involvement in areas of priority concerns to Northerners.

The Provisional Committee's leadership is found in Chairperson Molly Robinson, Vice Chair Ernie Scott and Recording Secretary Grace Selby.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

October 1, 1977 - September 30, 1978

INFORMATION-RESEARCH

- Rural Archives Project
- Local Histories Workshops
- Viable Community Studies
- Rural Development Resource Collection
- Recreation For Seniors
- DREE Impact Study
- Park Watershed Project
- Brandon Directory
- Small Business Educational Needs
- DOTC Socio-Economic Data

LEADERSHIP EDUCATION

- Rural Women's Conference
- Manitoba Teachers' Society
- Nortran Inter-cultural Seminar
- Manitoba Metis Federation Housing
- MIB Regional Vice-Presidents
- Manitoba Action Committee
- Manitoba Pool Field Staff
- Canadian Mental Health Association

COMMUNITY/ORGANIZATION CONSULTATION

- Dakota Ojibway Tribal Council
- Portage District Seniors Council
- Fuzzy Bears Day-Care Centre
- Bowsman Recreation Committee
- Manitoba League For Physically Handicapped
- Brandon University Student's Union
- Manitoba Work Activity Projects
- Brandon, Thompson, Portage la Prairie Friendship Centres
- Aspen Woods Housing Co-op
- Waywaysekappo Council
- Northern Advisory Committee
- Cypress District Development Board
- Brandon General Hospital School of Nursing
- Treaty # 3 Tribal Council

ASSOCIATED ACTIVITIES

- Rural Leadership Training Committee
- CPAC Manitoba Division
- Team Teaching
  -Applied Community Development
  -Community/Organization Theory
  -School Systems and the Community
- University of Regina Field Supervision
- Counselling Institute Steering Committee
- Westman Media Co-op
- Intra-University Committees
- Crafts Festival Planning Committee
- Various Speaking Engagements
- Centre Program Administration
- Delegate Canada West Conference
- Ad Hoc Brandon Volunteer Committee
- Planning Committee Inter-Provincial Committee Conference Conserver Society

REPORT OF ACTIVITIES: YEAR THREE

During the past year, the staff of the Community Resource Centre has been involved in some forty-five projects and related activities. While several of these projects were "carried over" from the previous fiscal year, some 28 new projects were initiated within Year Three.

As in previous years, our program emphasis was distributed among three major thrusts; Information and Research, Community and Organizational Consultation, and Leadership Education.

Our *Information and Research* activity seeks to gather and make available to the rural public, data pertaining to rural development in general and to rural and northern Manitoba communities in particular. Examples of the kind of information collected would include up-to-date socio-economic data (Census Canada/RAP), copies of public reports related to rural issues (Hall Commission/Garrison Diversion Study); journals and publications relevant to current rural planning and development practices; catalogues of agencies and resources serving rural and northern communities (Brandon Directory), bibliographies of rural and northern research, and other documents of related interest.

At the same time, the Centre usually initiates one or two "original research projects" each year designed specifically to answer the information and/or evaluation needs of a particular group, community, or agency. Examples of this activity would include:

- The Park Watershed Study; Dr. Richard Rounds, working with the Municipalities of Rossburn, a local farm group and representatives of both Federal and Provincial governments is studying the extent of damage caused by nuisance beavers to the watershed areas that surround Riding Mountain National Park.
- Recreation for Rural Seniors; Senior Citizens from Souris and Carberry recently participated in a study to determine their recreational needs and desires. This study was conducted in conjunction with the Natural Resource Institute at the University of Manitoba and its results will be available for review in the early spring of 1979.

- The Viable Rural Community; What is it about the nature of one community that makes it grow and prosper, while another community which on the surface looks similar, slowly decays and dies? And how do local residents view the strengths and weakness of their community?

  These and many other questions were the basis of community studies in Souris and Miami, Manitoba, conducted by local Chambers of Commerce and service organizations, with technical assistance provided by the Centre's research staff.

Community and Organizational Consultation refers to those activities in which Centre Staff are invited to meet with local organizations, community officials or representatives of government and private institutions. Together they may study, plan, and implement specialized programs of staff and organizational development or community and regional planning thrusts. Typical of this activity grouping would be our work with the Portage and District Senior' Council, the Bowsman Recreation Committee, the staff of three rural Manitoba Work Activities Projects, and several Board-Staff consultations with groups utilizing volunteer memberships.

- Central Plains Senior Citizens Council; Staff of the Centre were asked to assist the Council in examining its present organization structure with a view to developing more effective meeting management and program planning strategies.

- Bowsman Recreation Committee; A Centre representative met on several occassions with members of a local recreation committee to plan and conduct a community fund raising project in support of their newly constructed arena complex.

- Manitoba Work Activity Projects; Ongoing consultation with an organization development focus at projects located in Brandon, Dauphin, Amaranth and Winnipeg. The focus was somewhat different for each of the four locations and included development of overall project strategy plans, teams rationalization and management training.

- Board-Staff Consultation; The last few years has seen a dramatic increase in the growth of volunteer social organizations such as day-care centres, native friendship centres and various cooperative enterprises. Most of these organizations are structured to include volunteer Boards of Directors, one or two paid staff persons and groups of part-time working volunteers. Roles, responsibilities, expectations and accountabilities between these three "levels" is often informal and confusing leading to less than efficient operation. The Centre has been very active over the past year in assisting several such organizations begin to examine their structures and redesign their communication and decision-making procedures.

Rural Leadership Education takes a slightly different emphasis in that our efforts focus on providing "workshops", "seminars" and/or "short courses" on specific aspects of rural development and/or leadership training. Handling conflict in the community was the theme of a workshop sponsored by the Manitoba Teachers Society while a seminar in communication skills was provided to the field staff of the Manitoba Metis Federation, Rural Housing Branch. Other examples of this activity area are:

- Rural Women's Conference; The Manitoba Action Committee on the Status of Women, with assistance from the Community Resource Centre held a conference at Brandon to discuss resource needs of rural women.
- Manitoba Pool Elevators Field Staff; A workshop was provided to assist Manitoba Pool field staff in identifying current trends in their organization, their own personal-team leadership style and a planning strategy to begin dealing with critical issues within their job responsibility area.

Finally, all staff of the Centre have, over the past year, found themselves involved in various *Associated Activities* including speaking engagements, team-teaching, committee work and advisory groups where information and ideas focused on the rural and northern community were requested.

THE RURAL ARCHIVES

During its second year of operation the Rural Archives has continued to develop a historical record of the growth and development of Southern Manitoba. The receipt of a Canada Works grant made it possible to hire Colleen Senenko to assist in the sorting and cataloguing of archival material.

To date the collection includes:

1. The Manitoba Pool Elevator Collection - consisting of detailed correspondence, operating data, financial statements, membership lists and minute books of over 100 Elevator locales dating back to 1925.

2. The Hall Commission Records - from the recently completed study of grain handling on the prairies which was donated by commission member, Reg Forbes.

3. The Rural Collection - containing miscellaneous school records, letters and newspapers, photographs, diaries, etc.

4. Local History Book Collection - has grown to contain over 100 books about Manitoba communities and pioneer families.

5. Genealogical Reference Library - a collection of reference books and source material to assist family history researchers.

6. Weekly Newspaper Collection - contains papers from rural communities which are filed for future use by researchers.

In addition, the Archives staff has provided:

1. Local Histories Workshops - were held November 23, 1977 and April 26, 1978. Over 200 Manitoba residents attended these workshops designed to provide information on researching, writing, printing and distributing a local history book. The proceeding of the Local History Workshops have been transcribed and are now being printed in a book which will be available in early December.

2. Reference & Referral Service - Researchers are beginning to use the collection. Although statistics are not overwhelming, requests to use the collection are being received by the mail and telephone. Individuals have used the

archives in doing research on specific topics such as churches on the Prairies, the Hall Commission brief, and the growth of the Manitoba Pool Elevator organization.

3. Consultation - The Archives provided the Brandon Mental Hospital Library with assistance in the development of an archive collection.

4. Public Relations - The Archives provided speakers to the Southwest Manitoba Museum Workshop, Binscarth Chamber of Commerce, Brandon Genealogical Society, U.C.W. The activities of the Rural Archives were publicized through several appearances, in TV and radio as well as through a display at the Brandon University Open House in April.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Following are two financial statements which reflect revenue and expenditure activity for both the Community Resource Centre and the Rural Archives project for the period October 1, 1977 to September 30, 1978.

Possibly the most gratifying aspect of this year's fiscal position is our consolidated surplus of some $21,000 in contrast to our 1976-77 position of $9,000 in deficit.

Core grants totalling some $77,000 were most gratefully received from the governments of Canada and Manitoba, Brandon University, and the Manitoba Pool Elevators. The Centre also received a Canada Works Project Grant of some $17,000 to enable us to employ three staff persons for work with the archives project, our rural resource collection and to provide research assistance. Revenues from "service contracts" and from the sale of Centre publications totalled about $34,000, an increase of $6,000 over the previous year.

Core expenditures reflect those staff and administrative costs associated with the operation and continued development of the Resource Centre programming during year three; four full time staff persons constitute our personnel.

Project expenditures are those which are associated with either specific service contracts and/or our Canada Works project and reflect the additional costs involved in utilizing twelve persons in term and part-time positions.

To summarize in comparative terms, revenues were increased by approximately 54% over 1976-77 figures, while expenditures were held to a modest 5% increase.

The financial position of the Rural Archives projects reflects continued strong support from Manitoba Pool Elevators in covering the operating costs of this project. During 1978-79 alternate additional funding will be sought to cover the costs of our staffing contributions to this project.

COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTRE

REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES

OCTOBER 1, 1977 - SEPTEMBER 30, 1978

REVENUES			EXPENDITURES		
Core Grant Account			A. Core Account		
Brandon University	$12,000		Salaries	$46,669	
Manitoba Government	25,000		Benefits	1,040	
Government of Canada			Travel	5,352	
(a) DIAND/DOTC	15,000		Consumable Supplies	4,672	
(b) Sec. State	20,000		Non Consumable Supplies	1,466	
Manitoba Pool Elevators[1]	5,000		Community Participation	1.535	
Canada Works Grant[5]	18,256		Staff Development	775	
Miscellaneous Rev.[3]	5,421		Transfers[5]	1,120	
Contract Revenues Received to September 30, 1978	15,042		SUB TOTAL		$ 62,629
Contract Revenues Receivable as at September 30, 1978[2]	13,717		B. Project Accounts		
			Contracts for Services	13,150	
SUB TOTAL		$ 129,436	Canada Works Project[2]	19,704	
Balance in Core Account[4] on October 1, 1977		-9,482	Miscellaneous	2,928	
TOTAL REVENUES To September 30, 1978		$ 119,954	TOTAL EXPENDITURES		$ 98,411
			Operating Surplus at September 30, 1978		21,543

NOTES

[1] Transferred from Archives account 2392 for current Rural Development Library collection.

[2] Estimated Revenues / Expenditures only, pending Federal reconciliation.

[3] Sales of publications plus grants in aid of Local Histories Workshops.

[4] Operating Deficit carried over into 1977 - 1978 fiscal year.

[5] CRC share of Canada Works Project included

RURAL ARCHIVES PROJECT

REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES

October 1, 1977 - September 30, 1978

REVENUE		EXPENDITURES		
Recorded Balance at October 1, 1977[1]	$11,621.49	Travel	$1,461.79	
Manitoba Pool Elevators October 1, 1977	5,000.00	Publications	324.10	
Adjustment[2]	4.45	Supplies[3]	632.11	
		Equipment[4]	849.39	
		Development Library[5]	5,000.00	
		Community Relations	167.00	
		Sub Total		$8,434.39
		Unexpended Revenues		8,191.55
TOTAL	$16,625.94	TOTAL		$16,625.94

NOTES

[1] As reported in 1977-78 Annual Report.

[2] Reconile with audited computer records.

[3] Including subscriptions to local newspapers and acquisition of some local histories.

[4] Office equipment, storage cartons and files includes purchase orders outstanding.

[5] Transferred to the Community Resource Centre for developing a library of current publications for use by rural residents.

BRANDON UNIVERSITY
BRANDON, MANITOBA, CANADA
R7A 6A9

OFFICE OF THE COMPTROLLER

November 29, 1978

Mrs. Marion Fulton
Chairperson
Board of Directors
Community Resource Centre

Dear Mrs. Fulton:

This letter is to certify that I have examined the Statement of Revenue and Expenditures for the Community Resource Centre and Rural Archives Project.

The accumulated Operating Surplus of $21,543.00 for the Community Resource Centre and $8,191.55 for the Rural Archives Project are in accordance with our records and represent fairly their operations for the year ending September 30, 1978.

Yours truly,

D. Berube

Denis Berube
Accountant

DB/gl

Sunbeams

by F. A. ROSSER

BRANDON SUN - NOVEMBER 12, 1977

A SUCCESS IN ADVANCE: Let's hear those cheers for Sally Cunningham, who each morning leaves her home in Nesbitt and roars in to the campus of BU where she labors on behalf of CRC, the Community Resources Centre. Sally's particular interest is in making acquisitions for the Wheat Pool Collection, that archives of early Manitoba documents now growing at such a respectable rate as an adjunct to the BU library.

But, when she's not prowling farm homes and municipal offices looking for more documents worth keeping for future study, Sally takes on other assignments just as interesting, like the one she's put together for November 23.

In conjunction with other CRC staffers, like Larry Clarke and Roberta Miller, Sally has organized the first Local Histories Workshop. From nine until after four there will be speakers, and panels, and discussions, on exactly what you must do to get your history book researched, and written, and printed, and most important of all — [illegible]

There's a blue [illegible] in [illegible]

Now, my interest in telling you this is largely academic, for there was room for 100 registrants, and on the morning of November first the hundredth registrant registered and paid the ridiculously low tariff of a fiver for all that education, plus a workshop kit, plus lunch. It's a steal.

Obvious thoughts which come to mind when a seminar is sold out three weeks in advance: the price is too low, the sales program has been superb, or else — and this is more like it — good old CRC hit upon a great idea.

With the air simply reeking of nostalgia, and with amateur historians pecking away on their Underwoods at every other crossroads, local history has become big cultural business. The last time I had a chat with Dave Friesen of Altona, who is the son of one Dave and the father of another, his firm had 137 local history books in the works in their plant. They range from slender paperbacks to hefty hard-backed jobs you need two hands to lift. The other weekend when I read ROSEMARY: LAND OF PROMISE, I was impressed with 800 photographs in nearly as many pages, and all this coming from a community so new it wasn't founded until just before the first war.

I mentioned to Sally that this burgeoning interest in local history, when matched with the spectacular success of books like ROOTS, even the interest in the Canadian and Manitoba centennials, all seem to point at the great common interest to learn who we are, from whence we sprang, even such minor items as detail[illegible]ves of our parents and [illegible] gular Sun esponse if question your focus. It is time for a truly historical analysis. Some of you want to write true history but I ask you to keep in mind, history is an attempt to provide useful and challenging insights into the past." hat guest f anyone down. A d's hus- s a great

Luck also helps, historians told

by J.P. KELLEHER
Sun Staff Writer

About 100 delegates to a local histories workshop were told Wednesday that in much of their historical research, they should not just be thorough but they should also trust in serendipity.

"I don't know if everyone here knows what that word means," Brandon Sun vice-president Fred McGuinness told the seminar designed to help people interested in writing local, community or family histories. "If not, look it up."

The Oxford English dictionary defines serendipity as "the faculty of making happy and unexpected discoveries by accident." McGuinness described it as "finding a gold mine when you're mining for lead. Sure, it's lucky, but you have to be the earnest seeker to get lucky."

The seminar, held in the centennial auditorium, was organized by Roberta Miller, an administrative assistant for the Community Resource Centre at Brandon University, and Sally Cunningham, coordinator of the Brandon archives. It was funded federally by the office of the secretary of state.

Delegates listened to moderator Lee Clark, a history professor at BU, and 11 guest speakers during the day-long affair.

McGuinness urged delegates to engage in systematic, regular research. One of the greatest needs for local historians "is a Manitoba text on researching and writing Manitoba histories," he said.

Dr. Gerald Friesen, a professor of history at the University of Manitoba, said he is very impressed with development of Canadian culture in the last 10 years. The increasing interest in Canadian history is especially extraordinary, he said.

"You people are the leading edge in a cultural rebirth," he told the delegates.

However, he said, local histories "are often not exactly histories but are in fact local document collections and reminiscences." He quickly added that such documentation was invaluable to preserve the community's heritage.

"The time has come to change

As alternatives to large historical books, he suggested brief historical papers, newspaper e Local articles, biographical dictionaries, and if anniversary celebration pamphlets for not "with lots of pictures to break up the print," and slide presentations re will with printed or taped commentary. . CRC

These alternate histories are d edi- easier to produce well and are ard. capable of reaching a larger audience, he said.

Other speakers informed delegates of the various sources of information available to those engaged in historical research. Old newspapers, insurance company atlases which color coded every type of building in every community in Manitoba over the last 100 years, the provincial archives and community archives were some of the sources cited.

Funding available from government and tips on publishing were also discussed.

BRANDON SUN - NOVEMBER 24, 1977

THE VALLEY LEADER, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 1978

Community resource centre assists rural community

By Myrtle Lenten

Issues facing the rural community are threatening. Early in 1970, a group of citizens met to discuss the rapidly changing rural community and to search out ways to make available new information and resources with which citizens could plan for the future development of their communities.

From this in October 1975, the Community Resource Centre was officially established, at the Brandon University, to provide a 'resource' which individuals and communities could turn to for assistance. The centre is affiliated with Brandon University but has its own board of directors made up of representatives from provincial and federal government, Brandon University and private citizens.

The main focuses of the centre are: 1. provide research and information. 2. community consultation. 3. rural leadership and education.

Larry Clark, executive director, stated at the second annual meeting, held on Dec. 5th, that the centre was receiving many requests for information about services that are available with which rural citizens are not familiar. The centre thus acts as a liaison.

Requests for leadership guidelines resulted in the development of a condensed report on 'Leadership Patterns and Social Participations In Rural Manitoba', a report that is being used in leadership training courses.

The Centre assisted in a feasibility study on behalf of a 'Community Owned' Legging Enterprise at Swan River known as Valley Loggers Inc. Also, they assisted the Portage Vegetable Growers Union to sort out their working grievances.

Requests for assistance for establishing day-care centres, resulted in the publication of 'The Childrens' Board', a handbook for board members of child day-care centres; a publication in high demand

The Status of Women has set up a seminar in conjunction with the resource centre to sort out the needs of rural women. This is to take place in early February.

The centre has established a rural archives, housed at the Brandon University. This was made by a grant provided by the Manitoba Pool Elevators. At present, the Manitoba Pool collection is the core of the archives; it is hoped that the holdings will grow to include documents which will trace the activity, growth and development of Manitoba communities. Sally Cunningham, the director in charge of the archives, sponsored a local writer's workshop in November. Approximately, two hundred and fifty people attended; they evaluated it very highly. Many requests were made for a follow up workshop which is being planned for April.

Miami is considering doing an impact study of the community to set guidelines for future development. Larry Clark is to attend the Chamber of Commerce supper meeting on January 11th to outline how the resource centre can assist the study.

The centre is determined to keep a profile that the rural citizens will be comfortable with and offer information and supportive service to rural people who are struggling to develop and maintain their communities. As Channon expresses: 'The difference between a moribund community and a viable one is that the latter has at least one interested person with ideas and initiative.' It is to this type of citizen that C R C offers support.

Core funding for the centre is provided by Brandon University, Federal and Provincial Governments, ManitobaPool Elevators and private Organizations.

BRANDON SUN - DECEMBER 6, 1977

Groups ask about past, future

Groups in rural Manitoba are asking the Rural Community Resource Centre for assistance in preserving past values, says executive director Larry Clark.

"We seem to be at a crossroads," Clark said in an interview following the second annual meeting of the centre. "We're being asked to hold up a mirror to reflect backwards and forwards.

"Groups are asking what we have to change in rural Manitoba for the 80s and at the same time want to establish their roots in where they came from."

The centre, an independent institute affiliated with Brandon University, provides information and consulting services to rural Manitoba communities.

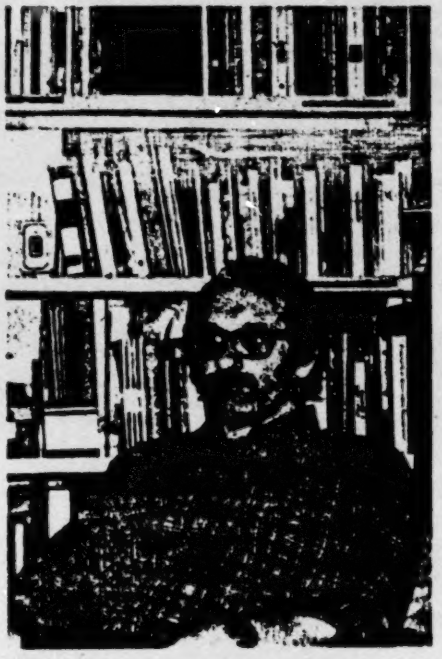
After two years of operation, the centre has moved away from government contracts to work with local rural organizations. "We're gaining credibility" says Clark, "working for local organizations and those serving the community."

The centre took on 40 projects during the year ended Sept. 30, double the number of the first year.

The Rural Archives Project, which is developing a library of rural Manitoba history and is funded by the Manitoba Pool Elevators, has drawn tremendous response, Clark says, as have local history workshops sponsored by the centre.

Year three of the centre will see concentration on projects relating to the tightening economic situation, Clark says. As budgets are cut, the centre will be examining the role of volunteerism in rural organizations. Municipal governments will be assisted by the centre on their future roles. Another report will centre on the viable rural community. Local museum seminars and senior citizen group organizations are also on the agenda.

Rural Resources Archives and Community Resource Centre



The Community Resource Centre, headed by Executive Director, **Larry Clark**, is assisting Manitoba's rural communities explore their past, present, and future.

The **RURAL RESOURCES ARCHIVES** in conjunction with the **COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTRE** sponsored a **LOCAL HISTORIES WORKSHOP** on Wednesday, November 23, 1977 at the West. Man. Centennial Auditorium. Approximately 100 prairie residents interested in examining family and community roots had an opportunity to meet with and question a panel of experts in the field of local histories. An impressive array of resource people assembled to provide some answers to questions plaguing local history committees. The keynote speaker at the luncheon was Dr. John Archer, Professor of Western Canadian History at the University of Regina. Dr. Archer is well known for his contribution to the preservation of local history in Saskatchewan. **Dr. Lee Clark**, Associate Professor of Canadian History at Brandon University acted as Moderator of several panels which subjects included researching, writing, compiling, printing and distribution of local histories and the possible sources of funding available.

Panel members included Mr. Fred McGuinness, Vice-President of the Brandon Sun; Mr. Tully McKenzie of Brandon, author of It's Time to Remember; Dr. Gerald Friesen, Professor of Canadian History at the University of Manitoba; Mr. John Bovey, Provincial Archivist; Mrs. Gordon Long of the Arrow-River-Minnota Historical Committee; Mrs. I. Heeney of the Elton Historical Committee; Mr. Walter Hlady, from the federal Secretary of State; Mrs. Shirley Brockest, of Candlewood Book Store; Mr. David Friesen, sales manager of D. W. Friesen & Sons of Altona, and Mr. David McDowell, President of the Manitoba Historical Society.

The workshop was organized by **Sally Cunningham**, Co-ordinator of the Rural Resources Archives, and **Roberta Miller**, Administrative Assistant of the Community Resource Centre. A transcript of the proceedings will be available early in the new year through the Community Resource Centre. Planning has already begun on a similar workshop to be held in the spring. Write or phone the CRC for more details if you are interested in attending. The Community Resource Centre has been involved in many activities during the past few months. Staff training and staff development workshops have been held with various groups such as Northern Affairs field workers, Dakota-Ojibway Tribal Council, Manitoba Indian Brotherhood, Youth Secretariat, and Public Health Nurses. Several of these will be continuing into the spring.

Over the summer, **Dr. Erasmus Monu**, of the Sociology Department, and **Ken Bessant**, a graduate of Brandon University, have been researching the subject, "The Viable Community". A questionnaire is now being prepared in order to examine the residents' views on this subject.

Another summer project undertaken by research assistant, **Jill Gooden**, was of finding alternate recreational uses for the rail lines recommended for abandonment by the Hall Commission. A report is being prepared and will be available from the Centre.

MANITOBA CO-OPERATOR - MARCH 16, 1978

Recording Rural History Important Job In Brandon

By Janet Hunter
Staff Reporter

Recording the history of rural Manitoba is a big job for the administrator of the year-and-a-half-old Brandon University Rural Archives.

However, with the help of residents throughout the province, the job is getting easier, she reports. But bigger.

Since the Rural Archives was started in 1975 in co-operation between Brandon University and Manitoba Pool Elevators to commemorate the university's 75th anniversary, it has developed a rapidly growing collection of early MPE and town records, family histories, photographs, maps, books and numerous other documents, according to Sally Cunningham. In fact, just about anything that documents the rural history of the province.

"We're in a very fortunate position in the west because we're relatively young, so we have a fairly complete history. We can still have first-hand information," she says.

The number of older people who helped settle the province is decreasing though, she notes, and that's exactly why Brandon University Archives was started.

"Older people are starting to realize what valuable information they have, but they don't know what to do with it," says Sally.

Since she made a plea over a year ago for donations to the archives, the response has been overwhelming.

The Rural Archives is attempting to develop its collection in three areas – the history of Manitoba Pool Elevators, the submissions and reports to the Hall Commission on Grain Handling and Transportation, and the general history of rural Manitoba. As the Archives grows, Sally and her assistant Colleen Solenenko are cataloguing the collection for the use of the public.

To date, about half the MPE locals have submitted their records, including original petitions and formation by-laws, early minute books and certificates.

"To preserve as complete a story of the Pool as possible it would be best if all the records were here," Sally says.

But that won't be possible, she realizes. For instance, in one southern Manitoba town, the elevator local's records were bull-dozed into the ground along with the building. That's another reason they should be turned over to the archives, she says.

Thanks to former Hall Commissioner Reg Forbes, the Hall Commission records are quite extensive and have already been used by students doing research at the university.

The number of individuals who have donated personal family or community records also pleases Sally, and each person has been officially recognized by the Archives on the items.

Sometimes donating personal records and artifacts such as maps or an old crop chart to a museum is "like taking Grandma away", says Sally. However, at the Brandon University Rural Archives, she promises to take good care of all donations.

Her promotion of the Rural Archives has stimulated so much interest in rural Manitoba's history that the centre offered a workshop in the fall to help people compile their local histories and another course will be offered April 26 in Brandon.

The archives collection can be viewed in the library at the university any weekday. ■

MANITOBA CO-OPERATOR
March 2, 1978

Local History Workshop Set For April 26

The Rural Archives, in conjunction with the Community Resource Centre at Brandon University, is sponsoring a workshop in local histories on April 26, in the Western Manitoba Centennial Auditorium. Registration, which will close on March 31, will be limited to the first 80 people who apply.

Keynote speaker at the luncheon will be Fred McGuinness, vice-president of the Brandon Sun, a man noted for his interest in the preservation of history by local residents. Panel moderator will be Dr. Lee Clark, professor of Canadian History at Brandon University.

Panel members will include Dr. Gerald Friesen, University of Manitoba; Mr. John Bovey, provincial archivist, Winnipeg; Nan Shipley, author of several books dealing with the history of Manitoba; Mary Liz Bayer, Department of Tourism, Recreation and Cultural Affairs; David Friesen, Jr., of D. K. Friesen and Sons, printers of Altona; and Shirley Brockest of Candlewood Books in Brandon.

Topics to be discussed include discovering sources of information, guidance in compiling and writing a book, discovering sources of funding, selecting a printer for your book, preparing the copy, photographs and documents for your printer, and suggestions on the best ways of distributing the finished product.

If you are interested in writing a local history, the Local Histories Workshop will give you an opportunity knowledgeable subjects. The 1.00 includes a If you wish to 00 registration e, address and number to: Mrs. Sally Cunningham, Rural Archives, Community Resource Centre, Brandon University, Brandon, Manitoba, R7A 6A9. ■

Local Histories Workshop To Take Place In Brandon

FEBRUARY 25, 1978

Brandon Sun vice-president to speak at local workshop

Miami Chamber Survey Should Help Determine Community's Future

PEMBINA TIMES - JULY 12, 1978

A survey which may have a strong bearing on the future of the village of Miami has been circulated to the residents of that village and the surrounding area.

The survey is compiled and distributed by the Miami and District Chamber of Commerce, in association with the Community Resources Centre in Brandon, and is aimed at discovering what residents of the area feel are important factors regarding the communities future.

Judy Maddison, of the Chamber of Commerce Survey Committee describes the survey as having the purpose of determining what the opinions of the people of the Miami trading area are about what the area is lacking in the of commercial services, social services, whether they would like to see more industry in the area, whether they would like to see the population grow and many other questions.

The surveys were sent to residents of the area around June 15th, with instructions to have them completed and returned by June 30th. 1200 were mailed at that time, but by June 30th only 200 had been returned. The Chamber of Commerce feels that 200 returns are not enough, and are now accepting late returns, though they would like to see them in as soon as possible. The surveys are compiled by computer at the Community Resources Centre in Brandon, and in the hope of having more returns, they will not be sent out until the end of July.

When the results of the survey have been compiled by the Community Services Centre in Brandon, these will be made available at a public meeting that is scheduled to take place in late September. A representative of the Community Resources Centre will be on hand to explain the results, and to answer any questions the community may have. It is hoped that the survey will give a clear indication as to the directions the community will be taking in the future in terms of what services the area will try to attract, how to improve the existing services etc. It will also be issued to the Thompson Municipal Council to give them an indication as to the wishes of the citizens should any controversial issues arise.

"There have been, individuals who have attemped to predict the future of these communities on the basis of such features as town size, and populations change, size of the trade-service areas, proximity to larger centres etc. the survey explains, and then states that these are not the only factors that will determine the future of any community. It cites such factors as what residents think and feel about their home town is as important to its health and viability as population size and growth rates.

Within the survey itself, residents are asked to answer a number of questions regarding the social life of the community, the adequacy or lack of social organizations, and even whether they have pride in their community; The complete list of services, from police protection and waste and sewage disposal to recreational opportunities and care for the aged. They are also asked what they would wish to change or leave the same, and how difficult they feel these things would be to change. Involvement of the individual within the community and its various organizations is questioned, as well as their opinions as to the effectiveness of the organizations. Included also is a list of services that are not available in Miami, and whether or not the individual would patronize such a business should it choose to locate there.

The Chamber of Commerce will be accepting completed returns until the end of July, and urges all citizens to have them in as soon as possible. Those who have questions may contact Judy Maddison.

Survey could be key to future . . .

BRANDON SUN - MARCH 22,1978

"How is it that certain small towns in Manitoba can co-exist alongside much larger centres? Or, why is it that towns which seem most likely to prosper, only stagnate or decline?"

Those questions were two asked in a brief description of the Viable Community Study that will shortly be started in Souris, among other rural Manitoba communities, in an effort to take the pulse of the town and its residents.

According to Kenneth Bessant, a farmer and small-town resident of Wawanesa, who is conducting the study under the auspices of the Rural Community Resource Centre at Brandon University, to find out basically what rural Manitobans think about their home communities.

The study, which has received the full suppor of the Souris town council, the Souris and Glenwood Chamber of Commerce, the Retail Merchants Committee, the Kinsmen Club, etc., etc., will be handled through a rather lengthy questionnaire that will be sent to each household in the town and surrounding rural municipality.

If citizens take the minutes necessary to fill it in, and if they oblige the study by being honest in their opinions, the questionnaire could set the stage for some development in the community.

Based on a study done in Iowa, the questionnaire attempts to dig out some of the gut feelings of residents about their community . . . are you happy? Do you think the town has a future? Would you like/hate to leave? Do you think the town has good leaders? police protection? schools? churches? . . . and the list goes on.

Sometime, within the next week or so, Souris and Glenwood residents should be finding the questionnaire in their mailboxes . . . complete with an addressed, stamped envelope that will carry replies back to the Resource Centre.

The study will be as good as the response of citizens . . . if a large number of questionnaires are honestly answered, and if a sufficient number are returned, it is just possible that the answers to simple questions might give the leaders of the community a chance to make plans that can make dreams come true or to avoid the fears.

But it all comes down to the willingness of the citizens to take a part in the study . . . we'll know in a matter of weeks how much interest there is in Souris about Souris.

SOURIS PLAINDEALER
August 16, 1978

Most Souris folks enjoy living here

Souris residents, according to the responses they gave in an opinion survey conducted in the town last spring, are basically satisfied with their community . . . but there are things they would like to see changed.

The study, conducted by the Rural Community Resource Centre (an organization affiliated with Brandon University), with some assistance from the Souris Kinsmen Club and the Souris and Glenwood Chamber of Commerce, was designed as an attempt "to define general areas of concern that could then be illuminated by problem-solving groups working at the local community level," according to the authors of the report.

Response to the questionnaire was about par for studies of the sort, with 237 of the 900 copies mailed out actually completed and returned.

According to the poll takers, the 30 per cent responding compare closely to the 1971 Canada Census information as far as male-female, married-widowed-single, education, and income groups represented.

"This suggests," said the report, "the respondents adequately represent Souris' adult residents."

Sixty nine per cent of those answering say they definitely feel "at home" in this community, with another 23 per cent "probably" at home here. And, if faced with a reason that would mean leaving Souris 41 per cent said they would be "very sorry" and 42 per cent "quite sorry" to make the switch in home town.

In addition, 70 per cent of the respondents said they have "much interest" in knowing what goes on in Souris, with the other 30 per cent indicating "some interest" in being aware of happenings here.

Not surprisingly, many of those responding to the survey are satisfied with the health care, police protection, fire protection and utilities (electricity, gas, water) available to residents of the town and area.

Ninety four per cent, in fact, gave highest marks to the medical care, with police protection rating 93 per cent and fire protection at 88 per cent.

At the bottom, the availability of housing to rent or buy was the least applauded facet of the community, with only 61 per cent agreeing that this area didn't need substantial improvement.

In between, citizens indicated varying degrees of necessity for improvement of shopping facilities for daily needs, street lighting and maintenance, good local government, a good welfare program for people in need, fair treatment in local tax policies, and a good waste disposal and sewage system.

In addition, the vast majority of those answering the questionnaire are apparently well satisfied with the religious opportunities available in Souris, with the programs and activities for senior citizens, the educational, cultural and recreational facilities, generally, but a substantial number feel that there is room for improving opportunities for citizen involvement in local government, in programs and activities for youth and in opportunities for employment.

25

In comparing Souris with unidentified "other" communities, the Rural Community Resource Centre presumed to indicate the "ratings" for what they called "a healthy-viable community" to the ratings given by respondents to the survey to Souris.

Getting top marks was the "variety of clubs and organizations to join" in Souris . . . the only factor in the study in which respondents seem to have rated Souris higher than the "healthy-viable community" to which it is compared.

In all other comparisons, although Souris scored fairly well in such things as "residents have pride in the community" and "anyone who wants to is welcome to live in the community" and "residents participate in community affairs," Souris was shown by the report as well behind the mark scored by a "health-viable" community in such matters as "effective dealing with its problems" by the community, the fact that "power to make community decisions is shared by the community," that "conflict usually doesn't take place between people or groups in the community," that "the community controls its present affairs without municipal, provincial or national groups telling it what to do."

Souris led the mythical "healthy-viable" community a bit when consideration was given to the proposal that "residents depend on other communities for goods and services needed for day to day living," indicating that slightly more Souris people feel the need to shop outside the area than would be the case in what the study creators call the "healthy-viable" community.

"The greatest difference between Souris and a healthy-viable community," says the report, "was on the sharing of powers to make decisions.

Continues

"As well," the report continues, "large differences can be noted with regards to the effectiveness of the community in dealing with its problems and the extent of residents' participation in community affairs.

"Apparently," says the report, "some Souris residents desire a broader distribution of power than currently exists, more effective problem-solving and greater residents' participation in community affairs.

"Another noticeable difference was the extent to which the community controls its present affairs without municipal, provincial or national groups telling it what to do."

Respondents to the questionnaire were also asked to indicate whether or not they saw changes as necessary, and if necessary how tough or easy it would be to make changes in the social and economic fabric of the community.

"Are local residents interested in community change?" asks the report, and the author answers: "One answer is that only 16 per cent stated that Souris is good enough as it is without any new community improvement programs."

Getting down to facts, however, the survey indicated that 62 per cent of those answering felt that "residents of this community look for new solutions to problems rather than being satisfied with things as they are," another 20 per cent were unemployed and 18 per cent disagreed with the statement.

Sixty nine per cent answering agreed that "changes are desirable even if they do not seem to contribute as much as one might expect," while 11 per cent disagreed and 17 per cent seemed to be firmly undecided.

A proposition that "even if the newer ways conflict with the way things were done in the past, they are absolutely necessary and desirable." Twenty eight per cent listed themselves as undecided on the matter, with 18 per cent disagreeing.

The biggest number of disagreeing came in response to the statement: "Community leaders are willing to take economic chances to attract new industry to this community." Only 22 per cent of those responding felt the "leaders" were willing to take the economic chances, while the undecided group amounted to 23 per cent. Fifty three per cent disagreed with the statement.

But although a majority felt risk taking wasn't the forte of the community's leaders, 56 per cent felt that the "community has good leaders," with 28 per cent undecided and only 15 per cent disagreeing.

One negatively proposed statement, "people won't work together to get things done for this community," didn't find too much agreement . . . 42.1 per cent disagreed and 15 per cent strongly disagreed . . . as compared with the 26 who found themselves in agreement with the idea.

In other words, taking a positive approach to the same question, some 57 per cent of the citizens responding to the questionnaire felt that Souris people will work together to get things done.

From this the authors of the opinion study have concluded that "improvements can be made if residents are called upon to join forces for improvement.

"As for the future of Souris," the study continues, "67 per cent of the respondents predicted the community would be larger in population in 1980 than it was in 1970. An increase would be the reverse of the 1961-1971 trend where Souris decreased by nine per cent.

"Forty four per cent of the respondents believed an increase of 10 per cent or more would be best for Souris over the next 10 years, and another 44 per cent suggested an increase of less than 10 per cent would be best."

As a matter of interest, 65.6 per cent of those answering actually thought Souris was larger in population in 1970 than in 1960, a period of history in which the population declined by nearly 10 per cent.

However, 41 per cent of those responding were agreed that the community has become a "better place to live" during the last five years, while 54.2 per cent felt it is about the same. Only 3.3 per cent felt the quality of life had declined in the half decade.

"One final indication of residents' thoughts," noted the report, "59 per cent believed the future of Souris looks bright.

"Attitudes toward Souris were generally positive.

"This suggests that people may be willing to work to improve the community. Souris has some areas that require attention (as do all communities); doing something about these needs is up to local residents!"